

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BAGHDA 00158 191729Z

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ACTION NEA-09

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FM USINT BAGHDAD

TO USDOC WASHDC

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 1648

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

UNCLAS BAGHDAD 0158

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: BEXP, IZ

SUBJ: NATIONAL MACHINE TOOL BUILDERS' ASSOCIATION (NMTBA)
TRADE MISSION

REF: BAGHDAD 20

1. PLEASE PASS FOLLOWING TO DAVID BONNAR OF NMTBA, MCLEAN, VA.:

2. BELIEVE BEST PROCEDURE TO ASSURE WELCOME IS FOR NMTBA MISSION MAKE ITS OWN ARRANGEMENTS DIRECTLY WITH STATE MACHINERY IMPORT COMPANY (SMIC), ABDUL MAJID KASHIF AL-GHITA BLDG., SAADOUN STREET, BAGHDAD. IF SMIC STRONGLY INTERESTED IN NMTBA, IT WILL, IN ACCORDANCE ACCEPTED LOCAL PROTOCOL, ALSO PLAY VIRTUALLY INDISPENSABLE ROLE IN ARRANGING HOTEL ACCOMMODATIONS. USINT RECOMMENDATION, THEREFORE, IS THAT NMTBA EITHER DIRECTLY OR USING GOOD OFFICES OF ARAB-AMERICAN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE WRITE OR CABLE SMIC DIRECTLY EXPRESSING WISH VISIT BAGHDAD. IF SMIC RESPONDS WITH INVITATION, THIS WILL ENSURE VISA ISSUANCE. A SECOND PARTY WHO MIGHT BE WILLING INVITE AND SPONSIR NMTBA VISIT IS MR. FARHAN JUMA, HEAD, PROJECTS DEPARTMENT, STATE ORGANIZATION OF INDUSTRIAL DESIGN AND CONSTRUCTION, (SOIDC), MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY, BAGHDAD. MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY WILL BE RESPONSIBLE FOR MOST FUTURE MANUFACTURING OPERATIONS IN IRAQ. JUMA KNOW TO BE PERSONALLY KEEN TO SEE MORE U.S. FIRMS ACTIVE IN IRAQ.

3. GIVEN LOCAL SITUATION, MOST EFFECTIVE ROLE FOR USINT
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VIS-A-VIS THIS MISSION IS STRONG SUPPORT FROM THE WINGS.

RECOMMEND THAT ALL NMTBA CORRESPONDENCE WITH SMIC, SOIDC AND OTHERS BE DIRECT VIA INTERNATIONAL MAIL OR CABLE, WITH NO MENTION OF IOGA STATUS OR USINT INVOLVEMENT. AT SAME TIME NMTBA SHOULD KEEP USINT INFORMED THROUGH USDOC CHANNELS AND WE WILL MAINTAIN INFORMAL LIAISON WITH SMIC AND SOIDC.

4. FYI: WOULD LIKE TO HEAR SOON FROM BOTH USDOC AND NMTBA ITSELF ABOUT PLANS FOR THIS MISSION AS USINT ALREADY RECEIVING REQUESTS FROM PROSPECTIVE MISSION MEMBERS TO SET UP CONTACTS IN BAGHDAD.
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